



**Embassy of the United States of America
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

April 01, 2012

Subject: Glitch in STEP retransmits old “warden” message

On March 31, 2012, the Bureau of Consular Affairs in the Department of State updated the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). As a result of the upgrade, early this morning the system appears to have inadvertently generated and retransmitted an old warden message dated August 4, 2010, via IBRS Notifications@state.gov. Please disregard that message.

As you know, the U.S. Embassy no longer uses the term “warden” for messages. For future reference, please note that official messages from the Embassy are now divided into three categories as follows:

- (1) *“Message for U.S. Citizens”* – used to disseminate information about routine topics such as voter registration, income tax season, new passport procedures, and other administrative/non-security issues of interest to the local U.S. citizen community.
- (2) *“Security Message for U.S. Citizens”* – used to communicate information about personal security threats of a general or systemic nature, or events/threats where local law-enforcement has taken measures to address or provide enhanced security to the general public. Such threats may include crime trends, demonstrations, peaceful actions intended to disrupt normal activity (i.e., strikes, sit-ins, marches), or localized events not likely to affect large numbers of U.S. citizens.
- (3) *“Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens”* – used to inform U.S. citizens about imminent events or threats that can affect their personal security and that may require immediate action by U.S. citizens on their own behalf, or by others, to ensure their safety. Emergency Messages may also be appropriate for threats to large numbers of U.S. citizens, circumstances where new developments to an existing security threat heighten the risks to U.S. citizens, or situations that put the life or safety of U.S. citizens in peril. This includes potentially violent demonstrations, civil disturbances, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, extraordinary measures by local authorities such as martial law, and other non-publicized breaking events. When the Department of State revises the Worldwide Caution, or issues a Travel Alert or Travel Warning for Saudi Arabia, it will generally be disseminated as an Emergency Message.

No. 02/2012

U.S. citizens are reminded to keep their registration up-to-date. Please visit this link for info for information on the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP):

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui>

You can also review earlier messages for U.S. Citizens at:

<http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service/advisories-for-americans-in-ksa/warden-messages.html>.

General Inquiries: RiyadhACS@state.gov

ACS Website: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service.html>